THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Please. The visually handicapped under the banner of National federation of the Blind held a demonstration on July 16, 1990 and submitted a memorandum listing their demands.

(b) The details of the demands and the Government's decision thereon are indicated in the statement enclosed herewith.

Statement

Demands of the National Federation of the Blind and decision of the Government thereon

The demands contained in memorandum dated 16-7-1990 of the National Federation of the Blind are listed below:—

(1) Immediate introduction of 'Legislation for the Disabled' in Parliament positively in Monsoon session.

(2) Filling up of backlog of vacancies reserved for the blind and giving employment to all the blind registered with employment exchanges and vocational rehabilitation centres throughout the country numbering about 3500 within a period of three months.

(3) All the blind Lower Division Clerks recruited as a result of special recruitment drive during the year 1987 be exempted from typewriting test and their services regularised.

The position in respect of above demands is given below:—

(1) A Bill for the enactment of legislation on the Rights and welfare of the Handicapped will be introduced in the Monsoon session of the Parliament.

(2) The Central Government had started in 1987 a special recruitment drive for filling up the backlog of vacancies reserved for the visually handicapped and hearing handicapped in Central Government Offices and Public Sector Undertakings. In the first phase, recruitment was carried out in respect of Central Government Offices in and around Delhi and subsequently in Bombay, Calcutta and Guwahati. A special examination for clearing the backlog of vacancies as on 1.4.1990 was conducted by the Staff Selection Commission at the instance of this Ministry on 17.6.1990. All out efforts are being made to clear the backlog of vacancies.

(3) Exemption to blind Lower Division Clerks from typewriting test was considered, but has not been agreed to. The matter is being reconsidered.

कुम्हार समुदाय का अनुसूचित जातियों / अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूची में शामिल किया जाना

634. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** क्या कल्याण मंत्री 29 अप्रैल, 1988 को राज्य सभा में दिये गये अतारांकित प्रश्न सं० 534 के उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कुम्हार समुदाय को अनुसूचित जातियों / जनजातियों की सूची में शामिल किये जाने से संबंधित मामले की इस समय क्या स्थिति है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस संबंध में कोई अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है; यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) इन सूचियों में कुम्हार समुदाय को अब तक शामिल न किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) इस संबंध में अंतिम रूप से निर्णय कब तक लिये जाने की संभावना है?

श्रम एवं कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) से (घ) कुम्हार समुदाय को अनुसूचित जातियों की सूची में शामिल करने के लिए अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं। इस मामले में अपनाए गए मानदंडों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूची में प्रस्तावित व्यापक संशोधन के संदर्भ में, इसी प्रकार के अन्य प्रस्तावों, सिफारिशों, सुझावों आदि के साथ इस प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया जा रहा है। संविधान के अनुच्छेद 341(2) तथा 342(2) के अंतर्गत किए गए प्रावधानों को ध्यान में रखते हुए अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की विद्यमान सूचियों में और आगे संशोधन, संसद के अधिनियम द्वारा ही किया जा सकता है।

Plans for increasing passenger capacity between coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad

635. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans for increasing passenger capacity between the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad in 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) steps are being taken to introduce new trains in Andhra Pradesh due to existing demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Introduction of new trains is essentially planned at the time of revision of new railway time tables based on availability of resources and considering the pent-up demands from all areas of the country. There is at present no proposal to introduce any additional services between the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad in 1990-91. No area is ignored and the endeavour is to meet the rail transport demand of all regions to the extent possible.

Upgrading the hygienic food and water supplied to passengers by railways

636. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the monitoring system in Railways to upgrade the hygienic in food and water supplied to passengers;

(b) whether it is a fact that hygienic standards have gone down recently ; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Regular as well as surprise inspections are done by commerical and medical officials of the Railways to check hygienic aspects of food served to the passengers. Samples of edible items are taken and analysed regularly to check adulteration. Periodical bacteriological and chemical analysis of water is also done. Action is taken against the staff / contractors found responsible for lapses in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction projects in Delhi

637. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to solve the parking, shopping, Commercial and residential problems of citizens of Delhi indicating the number of construction projects in hand and the names of approved Government or Private Agencies who have been assigned the jobs?